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December 20, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF ROWLEY, U. S. SECRET SERVICE

(Through Assistant Secretary Wallace)

Re: Study of Procedures for Protecting the President

You have reported to me from time to time since the assassination of President Kennedy concerning steps taken to revise the procedures of the Secret Service in protecting the President. I recognize that any changes in these procedures involve the difficult question of striking an appropriate balance between the mission of the Secret Service and the demands of our open society. Nevertheless, I believe it would be helpful for you to continue your review and place it on a formal basis. Therefore, would you please initiate a formal study for submission to me to determine what changes from your point of view may be appropriate in your equipment, personnel or procedures, or in those of other agencies. The study should include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1) the security of the Presidential vehicle and/or accompanying vehicles;

2) advance preparations for a Presidential visit in the United States or abroad including selection of routes and release of information to the public;

3) procedures followed when the President is in travel status;

4) Protective Research Section file and other procedures for identifying individuals possibly dangerous to the President and neutralization of such persons;

5) liaison with other law enforcement or intelligence agencies.

Not on signature list.

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You should not be deterred from making appropriate recommendations for changes in areas which may go beyond the prerogatives of the Secret Service (which is merely authorized to protect the President) and may ultimately require a decision by the President. It is also possible that some recommendations may require legislation or reassignment of present responsibilities.

The requested study may be submitted in parts, as appropriate, and if you determine during the course of the study that changes in your procedures should be made, they should not be delayed until the study or any portion of it is completed. Your report should also state what added costs or personnel may be required for each recommendation made or adopted.

/s/ Douglas Dillon

Douglas Dillon

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